

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 INR-10
INRE-00 EUR-12 PM-05 PA-01 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
/070 W

-----037568 062348Z /62S

O 062313Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1198

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01835

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: WESTERN FIVE APPROACH TO

SOUTH AFRICANS

REFS: (A) USUN 1818 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 116213 (NOTAL)

1. CONTACT GROUP AGREED AD REFERENDUM PM MAY 6 THAT
CAPE TOWN FIVE SHOULD MAKE DEMARCHE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
TO SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE SOUTH AFRICAN
ATTACK ON ANGOLA AND THE RESULTING SECURITY COUNCIL
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ACTION. TALKING POINTS, AGREED BY GROUP AD REFERENDUM,
ARE CONTAINED PARA THREE BELOW.

2. WE ALSO INFORMED CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS OF US POSITION
(REF B) THAT EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND MILITARY ATTACHES IN
CAPE TOWN SHOULD DECLINE TO PARTICIPATE IN BRIEFINGS BY
THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ON MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

OF STRIKE INTO ANGOLA. WE URGED CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS TO RECOMMEND THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS ADOPT SIMILAR POSITIONS ON GROUNDS THAT PARTICIPATION IN SUCH BRIEFINGS COULD BE USED BY SAG TO IMPLY WESTERN FIVE COMPLICITY IN THE ATTACK. ALL AGREED THAT US POSITION WAS SENSIBLE AND ASSURED US THAT THEY WOULD MAKE OUR POSITION KNOWN IN CAPITALS.

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TALKING POINTS:

SINCE YOUR APRIL 25 ACCEPTANCE OF OUR PROPOSAL, WE HAVE URGED THAT SOUTH AFRICA DO NOTHING INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE PROPOSAL AND THAT YOU REFRAIN FROM STATEMENTS OR ACTIONS WHICH WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO OBTAIN SWAPO'S ACCEPTANCE. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO YOU THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH SWAPO AND THE FRONT LINE STATES WERE AT A DELICATE STAGE AND THAT WE WERE WORKING VERY HARD TO GAIN SWAPO'S APPROVAL OF THE CONTACT GROUP'S PROPOSAL FOR A NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT.

IT WAS CONSEQUENTLY WITH DISMAY THAT WE LEARNED OF SOUTH AFRICA'S RAID INTO ANGOLA. THAT ACTION HAS SERIOUSLY JEOPARDISED THE PROSPECT FOR GAINING SWAPO'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL, AND THIS FACT WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY INTERVENTIONS MADE DURING THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE. NO MATTER WHAT SHORT-TERM MILITARY AD-CONFIDENTIAL

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VANTAGE THIS MAY HAVE GAINED FOR YOU, THE POTENTIAL POLITICAL LOSSES ARE INCALCULABLE.

IT IS WITH THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND THAT THE FIVE VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED MAY 6 BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE RESOLUTION EXPRESSED OUR VIEW THAT THERE WAS NO JUSTIFICATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ACTION. IT ALSO REFLECTED OUR VIEW THAT A REPETITION OF THIS ATTACK OR OTHER PREJUDICIAL ACTIONS WOULD CREATE A SITUATION WITH GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA.

THE QUESTION IS WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. ALTHOUGH YOUR ACTION HAS SERIOUSLY COMPROMISED OUR EFFORTS, THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS WILL CONTINUE OUR ENDEAVORS TO GAIN FULL APPROVAL FOR OUR PROPOSAL.

WE HAVE MADE CLEAR IN OUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT WE BELIEVE YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL WAS SINCERE AND GENUINE. WORKING ON THE BASIS OF THIS BELIEF, WE AGAIN STRESS THE NEED FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO UNDERTAKE NO ACTION INCOMPATIBLE WITH THAT PROPOSAL AND, IN FACT,

TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO HELP CREATE A CLIMATE OF TRUST.
FAILURE TO DO SO WILL LEAD TO THE GENERAL CONCLUSION
THAT SOUTH AFRICA, DESPITE ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL,
IN FACT SEEKS ITS FAILURE. END TEXT.

4. CANADIAN MISSION HAS REQUESTED THAT EMBASSY CAPE TOWN
PASS ABOVE TALKING POINTS TO CANADIAN COLLEAGUES AND
INFORM THEM THAT OTTAWA HAS APPROVED BOTH THE DEMARCHE
AND THE TALKING POINTS. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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